

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒
no ☐

Property Name: John Grossnickle House Inventory Number: F-4-138
Address: 11353 (and 11339) Highland School Road City: Myersville Zip Code: 21773
County: Frederick USGS Topographic Map: Myersville
Owner: Robert T. Grossnickle and Bruce Jett Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 40,243 #3 Tax Map Number: 30, 38 Tax Account ID Number: 06-191371,06-180787
Project: FR377B21,MD 17, Bridge Nos. 10068,10069,10071 Agency: MD SHA
Site visit by MHT staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes Name of District: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The John Grossnickle House, a mid-19th century stone farmhouse, is located on a two-parcel farm encompassing ca. 104 acres, along with thirteen related outbuildings, only five of which predate 1955, at 11353 Highland School Road. The farm also encompasses the site of the original Bernard Peter Grossnickle dwelling, which has not been extant for many decades. The property boundary also includes a ca. 1 acre parcel (map 38, parcel 243, #3) which is the location of a former two-part Grossnickle House located near the entrance to the main farm. It is currently owned by Bruce Jett.

The farm property stands on a hill and open farmland on the east side of Highland School Road near its intersection with MD 17. Despite the commanding presence of the stone farmhouse, the preponderance of many concrete-block modern buildings diminishes the overall integrity of the farm. The frame, two-part frame, former Grossnickle house (owned by Jett currently), greatly modified, is located just south of the entrance to the farm at 11339 Highland School Road.

The farm buildings are located at various levels on a sloping hillside. Along with the ca. 1840-1850 stone dwelling, the property features a stone milkhouse, large bankbarn, both of which the owners report are contemporaneous with the house, plus meathouse and wagon shed (the latter two built ca. 1930). When the current owners inherited the farm they renewed it in 1955 with the construction of two machine sheds (one attached to a mobile home), concrete-block cowbarn, with attached milk parlor, two concrete silos, a concrete-block garage, numerous additions to the bankbarn (more than doubling its size), plus sundry metal open machine storage sheds, a new outhouse and swimming pool. All of the structures are shown on the attached

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐
Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None
MHT Comments

Andrew Lewis
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Kuntz
Reviewer, NR Program

5/7/03
Date

5/30/03
Date

200301275

Sketch map, and are denoted as to whether they contribute or do not contribute to the significance of the property.

The principle dwelling is a large, two-part stone building built into a hill on the north side, which is the principle elevation. Despite an unfortunately heavy-handed re-pointing of the exterior masonry of the dwelling and encasement of soffits, cornices and window surrounds with vinyl, the dwelling retains good integrity. At the same time as the re-pointing of the structure in 1974, a stone plaque was installed in the east foundation wall which reads "In honor and memory of the immigrants who came to America from Germany, John Grossnickle, Sept 20, 1783, and Peter Grossnickle, August 1, 1747, and to their families and descendants who cleared this land, built houses and established homesteads and are buried on this farm 1000 feet north of this marker." The plaque refers to the earliest Grossnickle settlers, whereas the current farm was established by family members three generations removed from them.

The house's gable roof is oriented on an east/west axis. The principal block, two and one-half stories high, is a center hall, double-pile dwelling, with regular fenestration in the gable ends composed of two windows at each level with two small two-over-two windows near the roof apex. The house is extended to the east by a one-story, two-bay kitchen wing that is contemporary with the main block. The side-gable roof of this wing has been extended across the three-bays of the principle block, creating a one-story shed-roofed porch that extends almost the entire length of the principle façade. There are two chimneys inside each of the two gable ends--a chimney inside of the end wall of the kitchen wing, plus an additional flue on the outside wall where a shed-roofed, screened porch is attached to the end wall. There are five bays on the principle façade--in the main block, a door centered between two windows, plus a door and window in the kitchen wing. On the rear, or south side, is a two tiered open porch, carried on posts, between which are located vertical boards, painted green.

The outbuildings are clustered uphill from the dwelling. Those which predate the 1955 renewal of the farm consist of a large bankbarn, and stone milkhouse, both of which the owners report are contemporaneous with the house, plus meathouse and wagon shed (the latter two built ca. 1930). The bankbarn is built into a hill on the north, where it is accessed by an earthen ramp. The south slope of the very large gable-roofed barn, oriented east-west, is interrupted by two dormer-like features located just above the cornice level. The barn has been extended to the south by a very large, concrete-block, shed-roofed addition, and on the east by additional unsightly and poorly maintained additions. This structure is roofed with corrugated metal and is in poor condition--the sheathing is composed of a variety of vertical boards, plus metal cladding in some areas.

The owners report that a simple, frame gable-roofed structure, located to the east of the dwelling, was utilized as a meathouse. Supported on a stone foundation, it is built into a hill on the north. The outbuilding in the best condition is the stone milkhouse, probably built at the same time as the dwelling. Perpendicular to the house and just uphill from it on the other side of the entrance drive, the milkhouse is a side-gable, one-story building with a door on the west elevation centered between two windows. Roofed with corrugated metal, the gable ends are sheathed with german siding, and the one on the north is the location of a large door used to access the attic from the outside.

The most notable of the many post-1955 buildings is a large and multi-part concrete block cow barn/milking complex. It is composed of three, side-gabled, gambrel-roofed structures, with the gable-end entrances of two components oriented to the east. The largest component is a very deep cow barn--its standing-seam metal clad roof is the location of two round ventilators at the apex. The north part of the gable end is obscured by a gambrel-roofed concrete block addition. This center block is, in turn, connected to a gambrel-roofed milking parlor to the south by a partially open hyphen. Assorted metal and concrete block structures are interspersed throughout the farm. A small wooden outhouse, listing to one side and nearly collapsed, is located behind the stone milkhouse.

This property was the location of the farm established by Bernard Peter Grossnickle (originally spelled "Grossnickel"), who represented the third generation of the family in the area. The owners report that the sole components of this original farm are the site of the original house constructed by Bernard Peter and the possibly a remnant of the original barn that may have been encompassed by the existing much enlarged bankbarn. Bernard Peter (known as Peter) purchased two large tracks by 1804 in the Middletown Region between Myersville and Wolfsville. Property he had purchased from Christian Leatherman he renamed

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"Six Daughters" and is the location of the Peter (known as "Peter of P" to denote lineage) Grossnickle farm located further north on MD 17. Property originally owned by his father John and known as "Stoney Arabia" was renamed "The Two Sons" and contained 294 acres. The farm documented herein and built by John (1783-1863), his son, is a ca. 140 acre remnant of that farm. It is composed of two parcels. The land has been titled in the name of the family corporation (Grossnickle, Inc.). Some land was donated to the German Brethren Baptist Church fathers, alternately called Dunkards or Tunkards, which is the location of the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren (F-4-54). Much land has been parceled off and is the location of dwellings built by others, in most cases unrelated to the original owners.

A former Grossnickle house, currently owned by Bruce Jett, is located just across a small tributary of Middle Creek from the Grossnickle farm, immediately adjacent to Highland School Road. This property, partitioned from the John Grossnickle farm in the late twentieth century, is the location of a greatly expanded, two-part ell-shaped house, a garage and two sheds. The owner reports that he constructed the ell, which extends from the rear, or east elevation of the main block, plus the garage. He also reports that he heavily rehabilitated the entire structure five years ago, cladding the structure with vinyl, replacing all of the fenestration, building a two car garage, and greatly modifying the interior. He faced the vertical porch surfaces with stone, added bargeboards to the gable ends, and added a screened porch to the north elevation of the main block. The two frame sheds, one with a shed roof, and the other with a side-gable, have also been clad with vinyl siding. The owner reports that they are not contemporary with the house.

This secondary Grossnickle dwelling, originating ca. 1900, is composed of two sections--a large, frame, side-gable, three-bay wide frame dwelling on the north and a one story frame addition appended to the south. The main block has a full-width enclosed porch, whereas the smaller wing has an open full-width porch with roofline integrated into the side gable. All of the chimneys have been removed with the exception of the one in the one-story wing, which has a chimney inside of the south gable end. The owners of the Grossnickle farm report that this secondary house was built for one of the Grossnickle offspring.

The John Grossnickle House meets National Register Criteria A and C for historical and architectural significance at the local level. The house meets Criteria A based on significance derived from its association with the wave of German Brethren immigration into the Middletown Valley of Frederick County in the mid-18th through the mid-19th centuries. During this first half of the 19th century, the Grossnickles were one of the leading families in the local congregation. Before the church was constructed in 1849, (rebuilt in 1899), the Baptist Brethren met in the homes of the local believers. Their first permanent place of worship has been reported to have been the home of Bernard Peter Grossnickle, no longer extant, on the farm documented in this form. Meetings were evidently held in the house in the winter and in the barn in the summer.

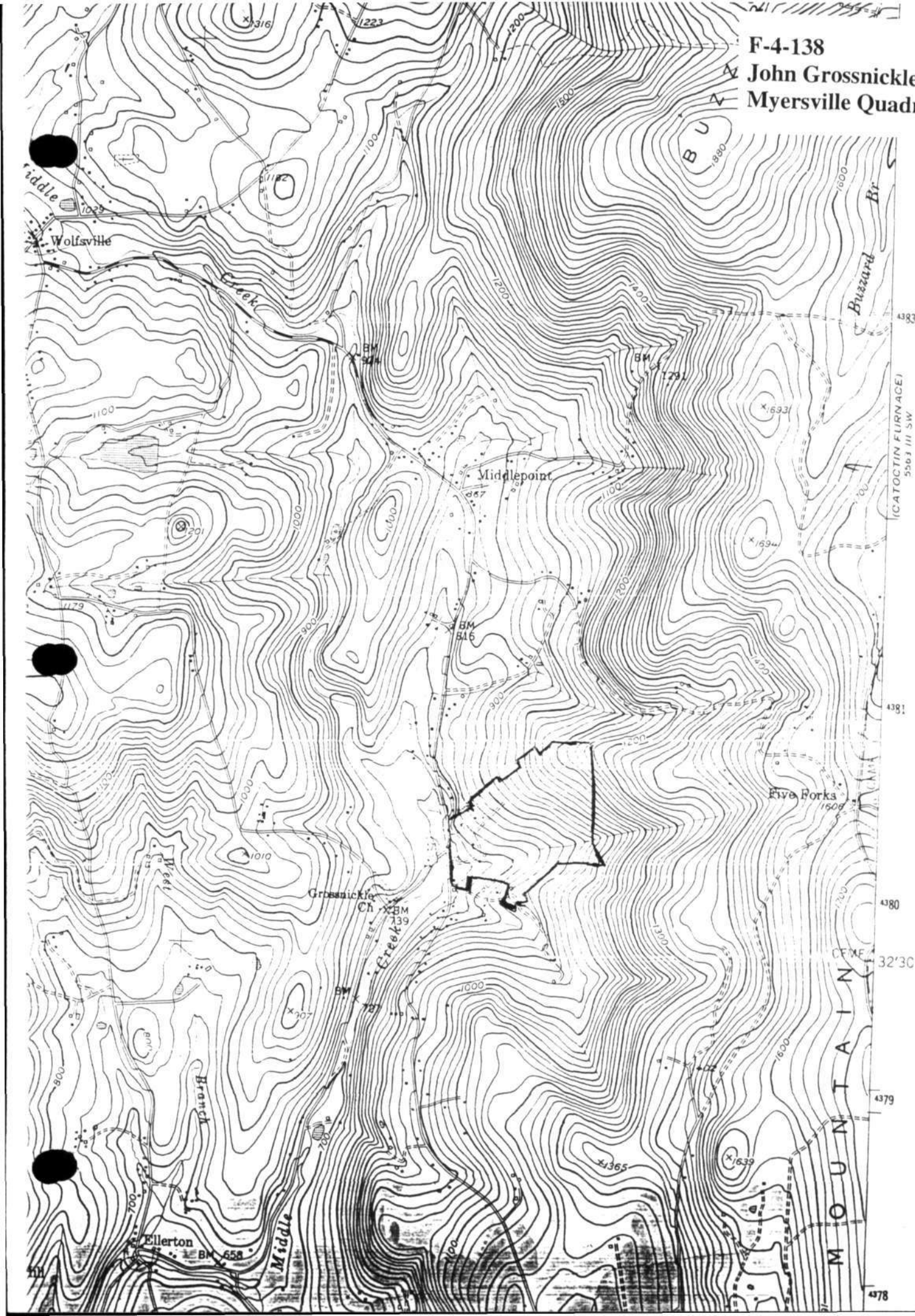
The property also meets criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of a vernacular dwelling from the mid-19th century in the Middletown Valley of Frederick County. The dwelling is an instructive example of the adaptation that occurred in rural Maryland when the German and Anglican building traditions merge. With its execution in the native fieldstone preferred by German builders, but its use of a center passage plan, the house reflects the growing influence of the ideal, Georgian architectural form.

The boundary includes two components of tax parcel 40--Farm Lot 1 encompassing ca. 5 acres and Tract 2 encompassing ca. 79 acres, for a total of ca. 104 acres, as well as the one-acre parcel of the Grossnickle frame house. This acreage encompasses all of the land included with the respective tax parcels that contain the John Grossnickle House (and the related frame Grossnickle house located near the entrance road) and the graveyard. Furthermore, it provides an appropriate setting in that it encompass all of the structures and appropriate surrounding farmland.

Prepared by: Rita M. SuffnessDate Prepared: 04/01/2003

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John Grossnickle House
Myersville Quadrangle





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John Grossnickle House
view looking east

Negatives at the MD
Historical Trust

Suffness, MDSHA

1/14



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John Grossmiller House

Marysville area

Negatives at MD HIST TRUST

Suffern, MD SHA

Dwelling, ca. 1850, west

2/14

gable end



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John Crossmole House

Memo to MD HIST TRUST

Suffness, IND SHA,
North, (entrance) elevations
3/14 Dwelling



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John Grossnickle House

Neq at md HIST Pres/

Seiffner, MIDSTHA

Dwelling, N E Corner

4/14



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John Grossnickle House
negs at MD Hist Trust

Rita Huffman MD SHA.

Meathouse
N a corner

5/14



F-4-138

Quar Grossnickle House

negs at MD HIST TRUST

Supper MD & HA.

Meathouse, SW Corner
ca 1920

6/14



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John Grossnickle House

Map at IND HIST TRUST

Rita Lippner, IND SHA

Stone meekhouse, ca 1850

NE Corner

7/14



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John Brommble House

negs at 1700 HIST. TRUST

Red Snuff, near 1705 HA

Metal Shed, west
elevation

8/14



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John Grossnickle house

map at MD HIST TRUST

Supper, MD-CHA

Concrete block cow barn,
milking parlors).

9/14 East gable ends



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John Grossnickle house

negs at MID HIST. TRUST
~~Ruth~~ Suffern, MID SHA

Bank barn, SW corner,
with big addition on south

10/14



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John Grossnickle house

neeps at MD HIST TRUST

Guffness, MD SHD

Secondary residence Bruce
Jett I-house

North elevation

11/14



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John Grossmule house

Negs at MD Hist Trust

Rita Suffern, MD SHA.

Secondary dwelling - Bruce
Jett I house

SW corner -

12/14



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John Grossnickle House

Neep at MID HIST. TRUST

R. Saffner MSHA 2/2003

Secondary Residence - Jett
I-house

13 14 NW corner



F-4-138

John Crossmable House

negs at MD HIST TRUST

Rita Suffern MD SHA

Secondary dwelling. Jett + house
non-contributing garage
SW corner

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